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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Arizona Corporation Commission
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ORIGINAL

August 4, 2009

Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: E-01345A-08-0172, Service Schedule 3 – Conditions Governing Extensions of Electric Distribution Lines and Services

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter and our 13,000 members in Arizona regarding the **Arizona Public Service (APS) Company Service Schedule 3 – Conditions Governing Extensions of Electric Distribution Lines and Services.**

We strongly support the Arizona Corporation Commission decision last year to end one of the many subsidies for dispersed development in Arizona and for insisting that growth pay for itself by ending the extension of service up to 1,000 feet at no cost. Why should Arizona Public Service Company, Tucson Electric Power, and frankly, Salt River Project ratepayers pick up the costs associated with extending distribution lines to far flung dwellings or to the next mansion in the middle of the forest? They should not, and thank goodness the Commission recognized that and eliminated this outdated and inappropriate provision.

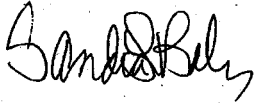
These types of subsidies have become so ingrained in our system and Arizona has said anything goes when it comes to development for so long that realtors, land speculators, and developers, see the subsidies as entitlements. They say the previous system was working. Of course it was – for them. What about the millions of ratepayers who have for years been paying the freight? The Arizona Corporation Commission should hold its ground and refuse to overturn this decision. It is okay to say no to the development interests, at least once in awhile. It is okay to look out for the rest of Arizona.

Another reason that they are giving for rescinding this wise decision is that the timing is not right. They cite the policy as an impediment to development. Contrary to that assertion, it is exactly the type of subsidy that you ended with this policy change that has fueled land speculation and dug a deeper hole for Arizona's economy.

We strongly object to overturning the current policy and to returning to a more heavily subsidized system. We urge the Commission to stand strong and to consider the interests of the larger public, not just the industry that helped bring about the significant economic problems we face today.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandy Bahr".

Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter